

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received \_\_\_\_\_  
date entered \_\_\_\_\_

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Journal-Gazette Building

and/or common Journal-Gazette Building

2. Location

street & number 701 South Clinton Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Fort Wayne N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Indiana code 018 county Allen code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Journal-Gazette Company

street & number 701 South Clinton Street

city, town Fort Wayne N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46802

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City/County Building

street & number One Main Street

city, town Fort Wayne state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Cultural Resources Survey for the City of Fort Wayne has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June, 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records City/County Building

city, town Fort Wayne state Indiana

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date N/A

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Journal-Gazette Building is an architecturally significant example of a well-preserved urban commercial structure dominating the northwest corner of a downtown Fort Wayne block. Designed in the early 1920's by Charles R. Weatherhogg, a well-known regional architect, the red brick building with limestone trim is a good local example of the Chicago style of commercial architecture.

The structural system consists of load-bearing exterior masonry walls; heavy timber floors supported by reinforced concrete and brick bearing walls in the basement; steel columns and beams wrapped with decorative plaster on the first floor; fluted cast iron columns and wood beams on the second floor; and octagonal wood columns and beams on the third floor, which support wood trusses at the roof.

Although the building presents two facades of four full stories each, the emphasis of the building is distinctly horizontal. The visual articulation of the building is structured within the simply-ornamented cornice and a string course band which separates the two upper stories from the lower.

The composition of the main (west) facade is strongly symmetrical, the symmetry only slightly broken by the placement of the main entrance two bays off-center.

On the lower two stories (actually concealing a double-high, 19 foot, one-story ground floor) the 13 structural bays are articulated by the masonry piers and the setback of the window sash and spandrel panels. Bays on the ground floor of the main facade have Chicago-style windows; paired, double-hung sash are used on the upper floors.

The main entrance is in the fifth bay (from the left) of the main facade. The entrance was originally accentuated by an ornate, copper and glass canopy suspended from the structure by decorative, scalloped mounting brackets and wrought-iron chain. This has been removed. Copper was also used to clad the double-hung and fixed-sash window mullions and door hardware. A secondary entrance in the 11th bay was also accentuated by a similar copper and glass canopy, now removed (see photo #1).

Limestone was used to contrast decorative motifs against the dark brick in accents which are simply and conservatively detailed. The base of the building, window sills, keystones, and the stringcourse are all of simple sections of limestone. Only the shield-shaped pendants below the stringcourse and cut stone work in the cornice are of complex profile.

The upper two stories of the facade are dominated by the fenestration of the middle seven bays. Here, the architect developed a two-story, arcaded, masonry facade with tall, paired slender, semi-circular arched openings, with the windows and decorative masonry spandrels recessed between slim piers (see photo #3). This arcaded section of the facade is also accentuated by a row of masonry projected from the face of each arched bay, terminated by a limestone keystone. The spandrel panel of masonry is laid in a diagonal pattern with a square diamond of limestone at the center. Simple, double-hung windows are employed which become arched, double-hung windows in the upper story. This arcaded system of the middle seven bays stands in marked contrast to the side three bays on either side. Here, the fenestration gives a much more massive appearance and the articulation is much more subdued.

The cornice is a lightly articulated composition of masonry and cut limestone. The visual lines of each of the bays is picked up by keystone-like limestone blocks which interrupt the dominant horizontality of the cornice. Over the middle five bays rises a heavier parapet of masonry and limestone, accentuated by corbelled masonry piers.

Continued

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Continuation sheet Journal-Gazette Building      Item number 7, Description      Page 1

The north facade consists of five bays and is symmetrically composed, as is the west facade. The fenestration is nearly identical except that in the arcade of the middle three bays, windows are single rather than paired.

Inside, three different patterns of stamped metal pan ceilings remain in good condition and are the primary ceiling throughout the building. Stamped metal cornices, borders, and beam pans also remain throughout the building. Extensive, decorative, plaster work on first floor columns and beams is also intact.

A special edition of THE JOURNAL-GAZETTE newspaper was published on March 25, 1928, to commemorate the dedication of the building. This edition describes the interior and exterior of the building with great detail. The first floor is described as having an open, two-story space extending from the mezzanine to the north facade. Steel and glass partitions were used in lieu of solid walls on the first floor, as well as in other portions of the building. None of these partitions remain. Plaster walls dividing the open floors into separate offices have been added on the second and third floors. As part of a 1951 remodeling, a low ceiling was installed in the three northernmost bays, creating single-story office spaces below an attic space above. An entrance serving these offices was added in the second bay of the west elevation. Plaster walls, running the full 19' height of the first floor, were also constructed at this time to isolate access to the vertical circulation from the rest of the first floor.

The brick exterior remains relatively unchanged. Portions of the brick have been tuckpointed. All of the original limestone ornamentation remains intact and in very good condition. Ornate copper canopies were removed in 1951 from above the two original entrances on the west elevation. The decorative mounting hooks still remain on the wall above the doors. Original copper cladding of window spandrels, mullions, and arched windows still remains, but has been painted. All of the original wood sash, double-hung windows still remain. A large, fixed glass "picture" window for watching the printing presses was part of the original design, and remains intact on the west elevation.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1927-28

**Builder Architect** Charles Weatherhogg

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Journal-Gazette Building is significant because it is one of few remaining examples of early 20th century commercial architecture in Fort Wayne. Charles Weatherhogg, a well-known local architect in the early 1900's, was the designer for some of the city's most significant buildings, including the Journal-Gazette. The site is also important as the home, since 1908, of one of Fort Wayne's two present newspapers.

John H. Bass, a well-known local investor and industrialist of the mid-1800's, bought the property in 1871 and built the original building around 1880. THE JOURNAL-GAZETTE newspaper was started in 1899 with the merger of THE DAILY GAZETTE and THE JOURNAL, both of which date back to the 1860's. The newspaper moved into the Bass Building in 1908. In 1927, THE JOURNAL-GAZETTE bought the property from Laura Bass. The old building was demolished and the new structure built from January, 1927, to March, 1928. The two printing presses remained in the south two bays, in operation, during demolition and construction. When the Journal-Gazette building was dedicated in 1928, it was as modern and as appropriately designed as a newspaper plant could be. Weatherhogg specifically designed the spaces and placement of equipment to be most efficient for newspaper production.

Architecturally, the building is a unique commercial structure in downtown Fort Wayne. What makes the Journal-Gazette different from the other buildings is the extensive interior and exterior ornamentation and its good condition. Some of these interior elements (i.e., metal pan ceilings, fluted cast iron columns) date to the late 19th century and appear to have been salvaged from the original Bass Building, which occupied the site prior to the Journal-Gazette building. These elements, along with the basement, foundations, and some interior structure of the two south bays, constitute all that remains of the Bass Building.

Wholesale demolition of much of Fort Wayne's downtown has left few early commercial buildings standing, increasing the relative significance of this structure. The building is probably the finest example of the Chicago-style in the city.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Special Sunday Edition of THE JOURNAL-GAZETTE newspaper (144 pages), dated March 25, 1928. Part of "Indiana Collection" of Fort Wayne Public Library.

Cultural Resources Survey for the City of Fort Wayne

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Fort Wayne West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	6	6	5	6	4	2	0	4	5	4	9	1	3	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

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D 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Lots numbered 1-2-3-4-5-6-7, John H. Bass Subdivision of Lot numbered Eighty-Six (86) Original Plat to the town, now City of Fort Wayne, of Allen County, in the State of Indiana, except such part thereof appropriated for the widening of Clinton Street.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Earl E. Mears, Architect

organization Archonics date May 15, 1981

street & number 4009 East State Boulevard telephone 219/483-2107

city or town Fort Wayne state Indiana 46815

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature J. M. Redman

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 11-15-82

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

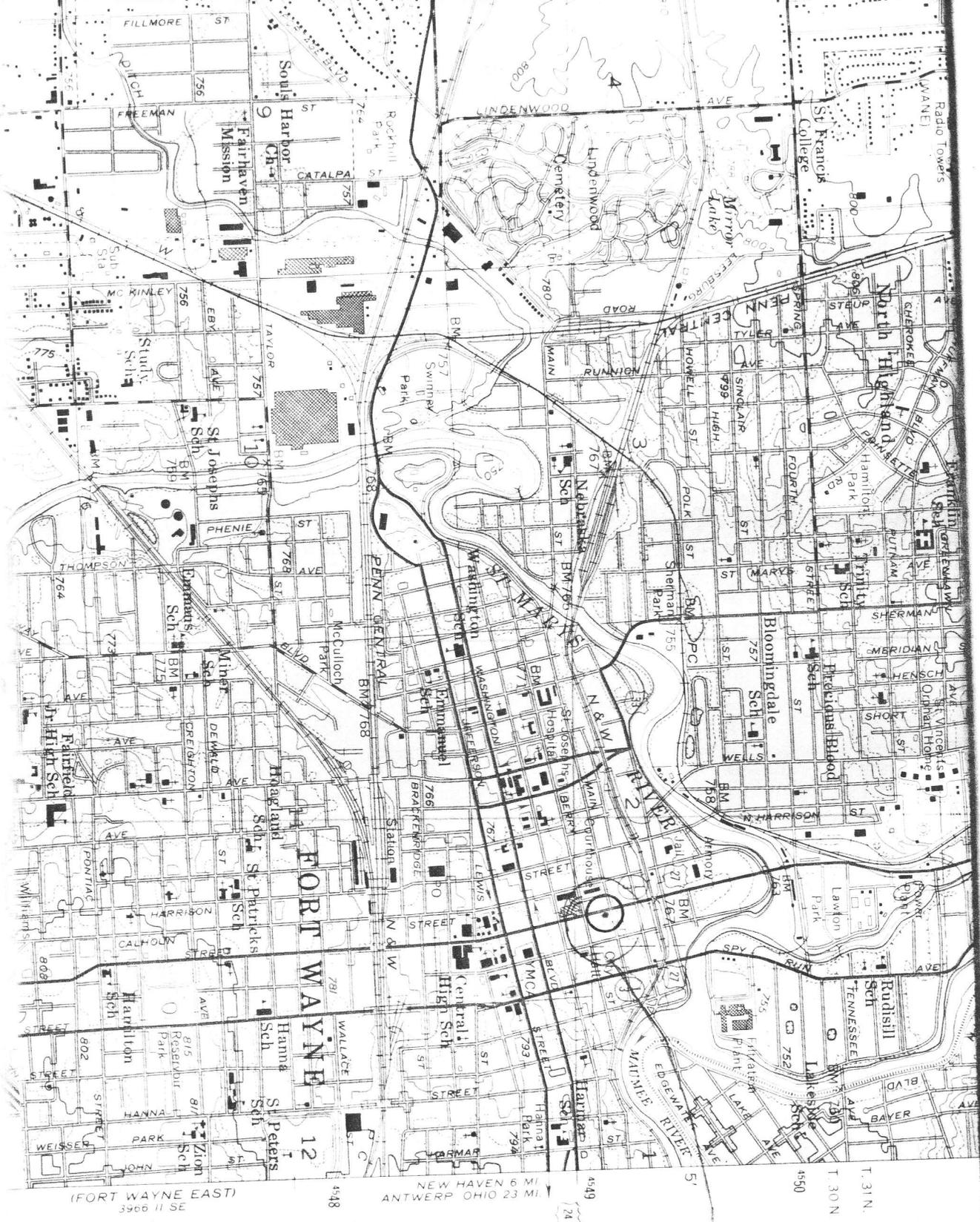
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Journal-Gazette Building  
 Fort Wayne, Indiana  
 UTM Reference: 16/656420/4549130